THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Keeping in view number of colleges imparting education and number of practitioners, it may not be possible to enact a Central Act for regulating education & practice. As interim measure, steps have been initiated to authorize the Central Council for Research in Yoga and Naturopathy to work out modalities for regulation of Yoga and Naturopathy education and practice.

Introduction of Bill on CCIM

517. SHRI S. AGNIRAJ: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the status of the Bill introduced to take control of the CCIM by Government;

(b) whether it is a fact that some vested interests are trying to block the passage of this Bill;

(c) by when this Bill is likely to be taken up for discussion; and

(d) the reasons for introduction of this Bill?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (d) The Government has introduced a Bill to amend the Indian Medicine Central Council Act, 1970 to make enabling provision for taking prior permission of the Central Government for opening of new colleges, increase of admission capacity and starting of new or higher courses of study in Indian Systems of Medicine.

The Bill has been passed by the Rajya Sabha on 30th July, 2002 and has been introduced in the Lok Sabha in this Session.

There has been some representation against the proposed Bill.

Guidelines of Human Rights Commission on NPP

†518. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn towards the guidelines issued by the National Human Rights Commission with

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

regard to the steps taken by the State Governments for implementation of National Population Policy;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) No Sir. No guidelines have been received from the National Human Rights Commission. However, a notice was received from the National Human Rights Commission on a complaint filed by the 'Centre for Women's Development Studies' in respect of the Population Policy. It has been alleged in the complaint that the letter and spirit of the National Population Policy (NPP) is being violated in various ways and NHRC has been requested to take cognizance of the violation and to direct States to strike down the provisions in their State Population Policy which violate the principles of NPP 2000.

(c) The Department of Family Welfare does not support the disincentives proposed in some State Population Policies as they violate the principle of National Population Policy, 2000. Minister for Health and Family Welfare, has, in his letter to Chief Ministers of all States/UTs dated 2nd August, 2002 (Statement Annexed) [Refer to the Statement appended to the answer to Unstarred Question no 507 (c)] emphasized the need for having a common conceptual frame work while formulating State Population Policies and Strategies. Government of India has already constituted a 'National Level Resource Committee' vide Order dated 8th March, 2002 to provide technical support to State Governments in formulation of State Population Policies in consonance with letter and spirit of the National Population Policy 2000.

SC directives on sex determination tests

519. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that despite SC orders on abortions and sex determination tests, many clinics are issuing advertisements in newspapers for performing abortions and sex determination tests;